

# Vital Events

Kansas vital events (resident-live births, deaths, fetal deaths, abortions, and occurrence-marriages and marriage dissolutions) decreased 0.3 percent from 100,644 in 1991 to 100,392 in 2001. ([Table 1](#))

Between 1991 and 2001, the most significant changes in vital events were a 28.9 percent increase in the out-of-wedlock birth ratio and a 26.0 percent decrease in the marriage dissolution rate. ([Table 1](#))

The number of out-of-wedlock births to Kansas residents reached a record high in 2001 at 11,592. This represented 29.9 percent of all Kansas resident births, which is the highest proportion ever reported. ([Table 1](#))

The live birth rate in 2001 (14.4) decreased 4.6 percent from the 1991 rate of 15.1. The rate of 14.2 in 1996 was the lowest on record, dating from 1935. The death rate increased 1.1 percent, from 9.0 in 1991 to 9.1 in 2001. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 3](#))

Hebdomadal, perinatal, neonatal and infant death rates decreased from 1991 to 2001, with percentage decreases of 9.5, 5.2, 9.8 and 18.9, respectively. The fetal death rate was 5.4 in both 1991 and 2001. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 3](#))

For the first time since 1992, the number of marriages occurring in Kansas increased slightly. The marriage rate (7.6) decreased 12.6 percent from the 1991 rate of 8.7. The number of marriage dissolutions (divorces and annulments) granted in the state continued its generally downward trend. ([Table 1](#))

Over half (10,591) of the marriages in 2001 were first marriages for both the bride and groom. ([Figure 2](#))